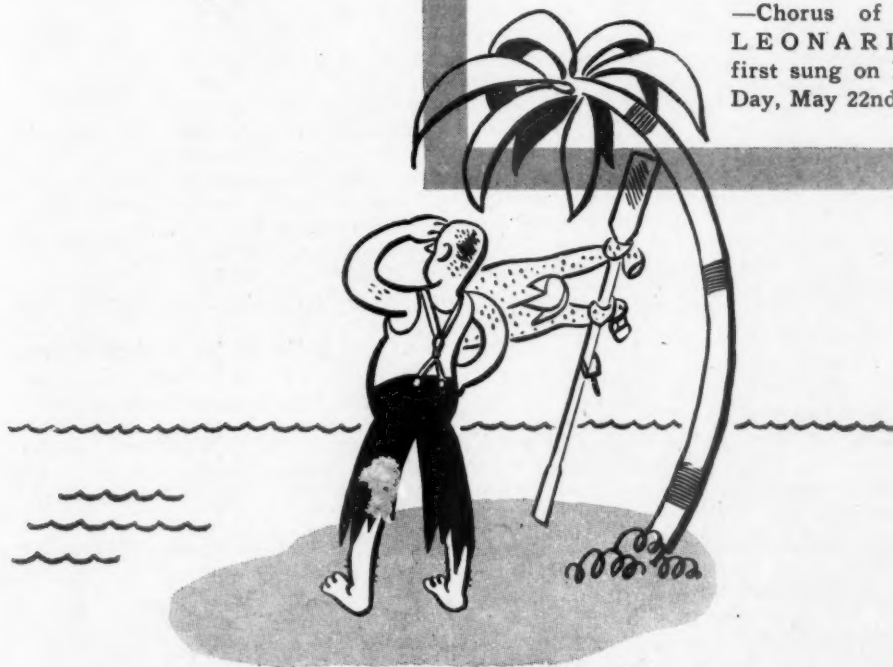




SONG OF THE VICTORY FLEET

We'll build and sail 'em—We'll never fail 'em!
The Victory Fleet will be complete, we know,
On every ocean, we'll be in motion,
The Victory Fleet will soon defeat the foe.
We'll have a bridge of ships beyond compare,
We'll soon be able to walk from here to over there.
The world is cheering! The skies are clearing!
With the Victory Fleet—Let's go!

—Chorus of the song by
LEONARD WHITCUP,
first sung on Nat'l. Maritime
Day, May 22nd.



For those who will not be *Mentally Marooned*

WORLD WEEK

Week ago, when the Kharkov drive was only a hint in the headlines, we said that if this push succeeded it would have portents exceeding anything likely to happen in Crimea. That is quite true. But, nevertheless, the Kharkov campaign has been heavily overplayed in public prints, hungry for heartening news. Timoshenko's move is essentially defensive—to disorganize Nazi lines and delay their full-strength offensive. It is important in that it demonstrates Russian ability to hold the initiative. The losses in manpower and equipment are not crippling when viewed against total Nazi strength. The big test—for both sides—is yet to come.

As to the Crimea: Though reports remain obscure and contradictory, it can be safely said that this action, too, is indecisive. Remember that the Nazis have held and lost Kerch before, and may well do so again. As long as Sevastopol and the Black Sea remain Russian, there is every reason for optimism.

SECOND FRONT: Wherever talk of a "second front" has bobbed up, heretofore, we have branded it as premature and impracticable. Yet the stubborn fact remains that somewhere, at some time, there must be a diversional effort of considerable magnitude if this war is to be won. We appear to be a good deal closer to that effort now than at any time in the past. It seems, however, that too much emphasis is being placed on the suggestion of a *Western* front. The Allied effort may well be in Africa, Italy or the Middle East.

... — American newspaper men, released from internment in Germany and Italy, have been prodigal in their filed dispatches, but the net result has added little to our enlightenment. Virtual prisoners since early December, these men probably don't know much more than we as to actual conditions in the Axis countries.

TRANSPORTATION: Gov't took over airlines to assure quick unified action in emergency; reduce competitive flights; shift planes at will to points of greatest need. Succinctly: to provide more elasticity. At the moment we see nothing presaging similar action for rail and bus lines, but it is, of course, distinct possibility in wartime.

Right now, we do not anticipate nat'l rationing of travel in a sense comparable to the rationing of commodities. Doubtless it will be necessary to restrict large-scale civilian passenger movements at certain periods and in certain areas. Pleasure travel will eventually be cut, though we think not too severely this Summer.

In certain congested areas, such as New York to Washington, it may be necessary to ration travel on a rated basis, with military and vital civilian needs receiving

Quote

prophecies . . .

HITLER: A "surprise" move, with stunning display of strength, will come some time before anniversary of Russian invasion.

TAXES: Approval of greatly increased surtaxes in lower brackets by House ways and means committee is a long way from enactment by body as a whole. We shall be mildly surprised if new tax bill is finally approved before the Fall elections.

AGRICULTURE: Begins to look as though the President would win a modified victory over badly-split farm bloc on his demand for free hand in disposing of surplus grains under price stabilization program. We foresee now that Congress will authorize sale of limited quantities corn and wheat at about 85 per cent of corn parity.

preference. On majority of runs, however, most trains and some buses still carry empty seats.

The big question is how much additional burden will be thrown on other transportation systems when private rubber wears out (late Gallup poll shows 4,400,000 families will have to take cars off road within six months; 12,000,000 within a year). While this will tax local transportation systems, we think most long-distance automobile travel has already been abandoned. The Minnesota Highway Planning Survey has just completed a study that lends substance to our view. Analyzing all travel on roads and streets within city limits of St. Paul and Minneapolis, it was found that 93.6 of vehicles were owned in Twin Cities; 2.9 were rural and only 3.5 were from other urban areas.

Steamship travel is virtually out for the duration, except for the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence River, and u-boat activity will tend to reduce the latter.

FAR EAST: Obviously, Japan cannot emulate the historic knight who "rode off in all directions at once." Both China and Australia raise the cry of imminent peril. It might be logical at this time for Japan to concentrate on trying to knock China out of the war, but the rainy season may prove an effective deterrent.

... — Now that it can be told, we aren't surprised to learn Doolittle dood it!

Harold Doolittle

Publisher.

Quote

"He Who Never Quotes, is Never Quoted"—Charles Haddon Spurgeon

"Listen! They're still applauding!"
—Last words of JOE JACKSON, veteran "tramp" actor, who died in the wings of a New York theatre after completing his act.

" "

"How would the people at home know how we behave in Washington if the press were not completely free to pan or praise as it sees fit?"—Rep. EARL WILSON, Indiana, commenting on furore over gasoline rationing.

" "

"From now on, people are going to get hurt, and are going to squawk. They will squawk in vain."—*Magazine of Wall Street*

" "

"By next fall, at least fifty per cent of the men enrolled in colleges will be enlisted members of army and navy reserves. Some of the women in colleges will also be reservists. Colleges definitely will be on a 12-month year, and will have to adjust courses of study to the needs of the armed services."—Dr. FRED KELLEY, U. S. Office of Education.

" "

"Rationing is producing a nation of liars!"—A Springfield, Mass., School official, commenting on preponderance of B-3 cards in gasoline census.

" "

"Gen'l Drum says there will be no mass evacuation (of aliens on East coast) and Walter Winchell says there will be. 'You pays your money and takes your choice.'"—HENRY L. STIMSON, Sec'y of War.

" "

"That factory we smashed the other day—I am its principal shareholder." Comment of a Free French flyer, operating with the RAF on raids over France.

"May we
Quote
you on that?"

"No tires at all will be released after June 1 to any one who abuses those he now has in use."—From an amendment of U. S. Tire Rationing regulations.

" "

"I'd like to hear fewer arguments about democracy—and more bands."—HOWARD VINCENT O'BRIEN, *Chicago Daily News*.

" "

"One hundred million dollars a year is a tidy sum, and we can use it."—HENRY MORGENTHAU, Sec'y of Treasury, commenting on plan for \$5 minimum tax on all who file income returns.

" "

"Present conditions are building up for a Third World War on racial lines, very likely with the Germans on the side of the Anglo-Saxons, against the vast yellow and black populations."—LIN YUTANG, Chinese author, in a statement to the League for Industrial Democracy.

" "

"I doan theenk I weel be so hot on thees program. Hones', I'm drag down so low that when I jus' walk, the ants bite me where I sit down."—LUPE VALEZ, when asked to appear on a certain benefit program.

"I'm going to run for Congress when this war is over, and keep on running till I get there. When I'm there I'll spend all my time seeing to it that we never again let another nation's air force get ahead of ours."—An Un-named Texas soldier, who saw service in Java.

" "

"The law against head-hunting in the islands was repealed shortly after Pearl Harbor, and Filipinos recently have been observed with heads of Jap soldiers on their spears."—JOSE PIATOS, Philippine educator, addressing American luncheon clubs.

A German diplomat, in the recent exchange of nationals, solemnly assured a waiting American that "things are going to pot in your country. A man can no longer have cuffs on his trousers. It's an intolerable situation undoubtedly breeding revolution."

When he gets back to Germany he will learn that there a tattered citizen gets neither cuffs nor pants!

"When the doorbell in America rings in the morning at 6 o'clock, I know it's the milkman, and not the Gestapo."—Private MORRIS KASSEL, Polish refugee, celebrating "I-am-an-American" Day in U. S. Army.

" "

"The District of Columbia, in proportion to population, has more persons in mental hospitals than any state in the Union."—Dr. WINIFRED OVERHOLSER, Sup't St. Elizabeth's hospital, Washington.

" "

"For an actress, the curtain is always up."—GERTRUDE LAWRENCE.

Quote

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AIR RAID WARDENS

Who are the Air Raid Wardens? They're the butchers, the bankers, the wisdom-tooth yankers . . . the tycoon in the upper-air pent house and the coloratura with the sub-sidewalk flat. . . . The man next door, and the lady you used to see walking her schnauzer. The shadowy neighborhood figures have at last taken on a reality for each other, become friends, and brought the spirit of the small town into the streets of the city.—"Neighbors on Guard," *Harper's Bazaar*, 5-42.

AVIATION

The generals and admirals of 1926 were convinced that Gen'l. Mitchell was a visionary. They were fatally mistaken. . . . Today the same thing is happening in the carriage of cargo by air that happened in the case of combat in the air. Command of the air is not in itself enough for the United States. We also must aim at the command of transportation. For this it is not sufficient to have cargo ships on the sea; we must also have cargo ships over the sea.—GROVER LOENING, "Ships Over the Sea," *Foreign Affairs*, 4-42.

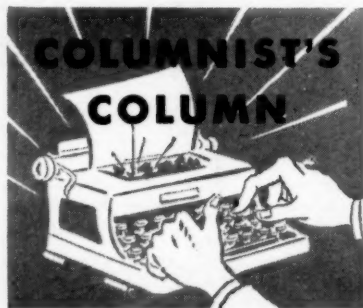
For the cost of an ocean liner of the *Queen Elizabeth* class, it would be possible to build enough long-range aircraft to operate trans-atlantic schedules hourly in each direction from 9 o'clock in the morning to 10 o'clock at night. That fleet, operating on such schedules could accomodate approximately one-half the normal flow of Atlantic business prior to the war.—W. A. PATTERSON, President, United Air Lines, addressing Investment Bankers Ass'n at Chicago.

CIVILIZATION

Civilization has not taken a fall because it stepped on something slimy. But something slimy was present because civilization had begun to rot.—HERBERT AGAR, Editor, *Louisville Courier-Journal*.

CREDIT

A manufacturer of phonographs has discovered a truly psychologic plan for telling in advance which individuals can be depended upon to behave honestly. His scheme is to send a phonograph on credit only to those prospects who will give their physician's name as a reference. Any man who is willing to comply is not likely to owe his physician any money. Chances are good that he is a good credit risk.—*Victor News*, 4-42.



Those X-Cards

By RAYMOND CLAPPER

On the day it was announced that steel would replace rubber on future tank treads, at a sacrifice of 10 per cent in speed, senators and representatives were staging an obscene spectacle in demanding the right to unlimited use of their automobiles. I have sympathy with the need of these men to get around and am less inclined to question the mileage than I am the spirit—the selfish, obstructive spirit—they display in claiming unlimited privileges. Fortunately, they are being so stupid in this that a number of them are apt to pay for it dearly at the hands of indignant voters. We'll find out that some of them are not essential gasoline users after all.

The very men to whom the whole country looks to set an example and to encourage the public to accept the personal inconveniences needed to help win this war are doing exactly the reverse. Instead of trying to co-operate they are cackling like wet hens to hold their special privilege.

They are handing out personal abuse to rationing officials and are denouncing the press for reporting the fact that they are chiseling unlimited gasoline cards. They are claiming that the press and the officials are trying to destroy congress. Then senate majority leader Barkley, instead of appealing to his colleagues to help save gasoline, flies into a rage when Senator Downey, of California, asks the senators to waive their rights and restrict the use of gasoline.

The attitude of these senators and representatives makes one's blood boil. But more than that, it makes you solemnly wonder for the future of congress. Popular resentment (against the pension grab last winter) was so strong that some members already have been defeated on the issue. More are likely to bite the dust by this stupid conduct with regard to the gasoline ration.—Condensed from Mr. Clapper's daily feature, *Washington*.

CRUELTY—Nazi

The Countess Waldeck, author of *Athene Palace*, told this story recently—of the period shortly after the Nazis had taken control of Rumania. The Countess asked a Nazi official: "Why doesn't Hitler seize Rumania outright?" . . . "You do not understand Der Fuehrer's technique," replied the Nazi. "I will tell you a story to illustrate it: Hitler, Petain and Churchill saw a goldfish in a bowl and each coveted it. Churchill tried to lasso the fish with his watch chain. Petain conceded defeat and wouldn't try. But Hitler drained all the water out of the bowl and put the fish in his hand—letting it toss and wriggle, hopelessly. Churchill asked: 'Why not fry him now?' . . . 'Oh, no,' answered Hitler. 'He didn't ask me to.'—LEONARD LYONS, in his *Syndicated Feature*.

Bonds vs. Bondage

"Look here, John, here's a picture of a sofa that was just like the new one we planned to buy."

"What do you mean, 'was'?" asks husband John, coming to look over Winifred's shoulder.

The photograph answers his question. It shows one of those London houses sliced down the middle by Jerry's bombs. On an exposed second floor stands what is left of a comfortable piece of furniture with "period touches" that would harmonize perfectly with John and Winifred's home.

"Hmm," John muses, "it makes you wonder whether to put your money into things that can be blown sky high, doesn't it?"

"Especially," adds Winifred, "when you can put it into something that might prevent whatever useful things you and your neighbors have from being endangered."

"For instance, into—?"

"For instance, into United States war bonds!"—From an Editorial in *Christian Science Monitor*.

DRINK—Drinking

An early freeze-up last fall caught the last Yukon down-river boat with liquor supplies for the town of Nulato, Alaska. A visitor reports:

"The church is full on Sunday. It used to be that the minister would have nobody in church but himself. The jail was empty this winter for the first time in years. And when it came time to renew liquor licenses, a majority of the natives petitioned for prohibition."—AP dispatch.

FREEDOM

We have our stooges and sixth columnists. But it is also true that honest, patriotic freemen, in the exercise of their duty as patriots and as freemen, are bound now and then to say things which will be read with pleasure by Hitler. Well, let him. It is the inescapable price we pay for being free. Over there in Naziland the people don't say things that are read with pleasure in the United States—for the very good reason that Hitler's subjects are not allowed to say anything. They do not talk like sixth columnists because they are dumb slaves.—An Editorial in *New York Times*, 5-10-42.

We can because we must
Grinds us men to dust;
We must because we can
Awakes the God in man.
—Quoted by FRED S. DUNHAM,
Education, 4-42.

LIFE—And Youth

Our society lives in the illusion that man lives forever. Thus do we govern our behavior. No one grows old. Our soldiers are "our boys," our women are all "girls." An American child is protected against every real experience. When Grandmother dies, he is told that "Grandma has gone away," in the hope that he will just slowly cease to notice her absence. The facts of advancing age are covered with hair dyes, massages, and face-lifting operations. All love belongs to youth and the erotic ideal for a middle-aged audience remains a girl of eighteen weighing just so much. Our cemeteries are parks, and the most modern ones have no individual graves. In Los Angeles the "mortician" profession has managed to make a cemetery with the atmosphere of a revue stage. Nobody wears mourning.—DOROTHY THOMPSON, "The Theater, A Comment On America," *Tomorrow*, 5-42.

MOTION PICTURES

The \$5,000 ceiling for sets and materials that the gov't has put on movies, takes the industry right back where it started. But Hollywood has accepted it with a sense of humor. It makes the old remark of the Stern brothers—the first movie gag—very timely. When the director wanted to build a swanky set, the Sterns declared, "A rock's a rock and a tree's a tree. We'll shoot it in Griffith park."—SIDNEY SKOLSKY, in his column, *Skolsky's Hollywood*.

"Only God Can Help Us Now!"

By GEORGE WELLER

"I'll bet you boys can't guess where I'm going."

The army officer, just back from Bataan, had stepped from his first bath in four months. "I'm going to church" he said, "for the first time in 20 years."

The officer's announcement caused somewhat less astonishment than it would have two months ago. We now observe that outcoming officers bring with them something less tangible than their notebooks of military intelligence. It is a marked enhancement of interest in religion.

It is noteworthy that in a world dominated by production indexes and geographical strategy, men who have undergone the experience of battle have found themselves increasingly turning to God for consolation. It is interesting to see, here in Australia, this increased devotion meeting the tides of incoming troops who cannot but partake of the spirit derived from the Americans' ordeal in the Philippines and Java.

Describing conditions on Bataan, the officer referred to above said that he believed this surge of religious feeling dated from the Japanese bombing of Hospital No. 1. There were profuse Japanese apologies for this outrage. But four days later the Japanese launched an extremely

heavy raid upon the same hospital, with tragic success. "When we saw what happened there" the officer related "we knew henceforward only God could protect us."

Services, which had been held until then by Chaplain William A. Dawson, a Baptist minister, had only been visited by a handful, but the number increased daily. After the hospital bombing, the chapel was crowded. There were many new baptisms among all faiths.

Increased interest in religion is apparent, too, in the rear of the war zone. Among many places of worship in western Australia, regularly visited by Americans, is the church known to Australians as "Mae West's church." This church (St. Columbia) derives its nickname from an experience the Australian pastor had when he temporarily held a small pastorate near Hollywood.

Observing an opulent woman worshiper, frequently seen at prayer alone, the clergyman made her acquaintance. When he expressed his desire to build a church in western Australia, with the California church as a model, the unknown woman offered to help him financially, only later revealing herself as the actress. —Condensed from a dispatch published in *Chicago Daily News*.

MUSIC—in Wartime

"An Englishman will not weep over his personal sorrow, but he will weep for the sorrow of the nation. Music has suddenly become the expression of that feeling to the ordinary Englishman."—Quotation attributed to Dr. Malcolm Sargeant, conductor of the London Philharmonic. — "ADELPHI," London Calling," in *The Financial Post*, Canada.

PRODUCTION—for War

For every 24 autos we are not making this year we have saved steel and rubber enough for a single 27-ton medium tank.

For each automobile we are not making this year we have saved enough tin to coat 1,000 cans in which to put food for soldiers and sailors.

For every 700 automobiles we are not making this year we have saved enough aluminum to make one fighter plane.

For each automobile we are not

making this year we have saved enough nickel to make 100 pounds of nickel steel for armor plate, projectiles and armorpiercing bullets.

For every automobile that isn't made this year we will have saved great quantities of steel, nickel, rubber, chrome, zinc, copper, tin, aluminum and other materials—saved them to make weapons to help win the war.—*Jobber Topics*, 5-42.

SPEECH

The human voice carries best when sounds are produced from the chest.

Here's good exercise to improve your diction: Cut a piece of wood about 1" long $\frac{1}{2}$ " thick, with a notch at top and bottom. Hold it between upper and lower teeth so your jaw can't move freely. Now, start reading aloud. At first you'll find it difficult, but a little practice will enable you to speak distinctly. Warning: take gag out before you go to bed—or make your next after-dinner speech!—*Future*, 3-42.

News of the New

ERSATZ: In New York this week more than 100 companies combined to put on an "Ingenuity" show, to demonstrate how they are getting around raw material shortages brought on by war. Included were: a new wool-like cloth made of soy beans; a "victory" electric fan with blades of fiber instead of aluminum; cord wire of silver instead of copper. Glass, wood and plastics substituted heavily for rubber, wool and metal.

INSULATION: Among interesting developments of war time is marked improvement in insulating materials. Silica aerogel—described by some as "puffed-up sand"—now being used to eliminate gloss in camouflage paints, promises to reduce thickness of future refrigerator walls by half. Thus, more refrigerating area in same space.

Another related insulating material is Arizona rock glass, called Perlite, which is already replacing war-scarce ground cork, and weighs 20 per cent less per cubic foot.

INVENTION: There's a new sun-lamp bulb which requires no metal stand. It has its own reflector inside. Screws into any lamp socket.

An electrically-lighted walking stick for blackouts is another innovation. Small light hidden in the plastic handle, points downward.

MEDICINE: Vaccine against tuberculosis dates back a dozen years. But this week, for first time, Dr. Sol Rosenthal, U. of Ill. College of Medicine, made definite statement that children can be vaccinated successfully against the disease. Result of 8 yrs. experience with 1,000 children.

PROCESSES: The Meat Institute, working with Dep't of Agriculture, has developed process of dehydrating beef, badly needed by our European allies. Method is secret.

RUBBER: A West Va., dentist—Dr. Glenn L. Casto—has developed a process for making a rubber substitute from natural gas, coal, wood and grain. Gov't is much interested and laboratory tests are now under way. A tire of the material is said to be holding up well. This is not a synthetic rubber, but a product with physical properties akin to crude rubber, while differing from it in chemical properties.

STANDARDS—Illogical

Grampa Hicks lived in a palmetto-log shack at the edge of Cross Creek. . . . He existed by the illegal trapping of fish in Orange lake and by renting other men's rowboats, without permission, to fishermen from Jacksonville. If a customer's outboard motor lacked gas, he shuffled mysteriously to the other side of the bridge across the Creek, where lay beached other boats and motors, and returned with fuel. If catfish were scarce on his own lines, he ran the other fellow's.

Man's law is one thing, God's another.

One Sunday morning we asked Grandpa to go fishing with us. He knew where the bream were biting and we had had no luck for weeks. He spat.

"I don't fish on Sundays," he said haughtily. "I wa'n't raised up that a-way."—MARJORIE KINNAN RAWLINGS, *Cross Creek*, (Scribner's, \$2.50).

God's War

Joe, you have named the war.
I don't think you knew
That you were naming the war.
But you named it.
You named it when you said.
"We are going to win
Because we are on God's side."
You were right, Joe,
And you have named the war.
This is God's War.

—CARL BOYER, "Joe Louis Named The War," *Collier's*, 5-16-42.

SYMPATHY

As a schoolboy, Sir Walter Scott was far from being a brilliant scholar; in fact he lingered dangerously near the foot of his class.

One day long after he had become famous, he made a surprise visit to his old school. The teacher tried to make a good impression, putting her brightest pupils through the paces; but the effect was somewhat marred by a small boy who sat disconsolately in the corner. He wore a dunce cap!

Sir Walter tried to give his complete attention to the star performance being given but his attention kept wandering again and again to the unhappy lad in the corner. When, at length, the exhibition was finished, the author hastened to the boy, took his hand and said with great kindness, "My good fellow, I know just how you feel. Here's a crown for keeping my place warm."—*The Christian Science Monitor*.



Production and sale of protective helmets for civilians was barred this week by WPB, in move to conserve critical materials. Puts end to lucrative item offered by Coast dep't stores. . . . Note on gas-mask situation: Congress, last Feb., appropriated \$29,000,000 to provide masks for civilians. Members now urge action. Don't buy untested gas-masks. Gov't will provide adequate masks for public protection where and when needed.

The Donovan and Rockefeller offices are asking gov't to lease all short-wave radio time or take over stations outright. . . . Last report we had from our Private Snooper, OPM publicity mailing list still carried name of Japanese Embassy in Washington.

Moonshining, we hear, may survive sugar shortage. Word is that boys of the backwoods will use sorghum, home-grown sugar cane or commercial molasses. . . . By the way, that advice to housewives to use saccharin for sweetening is n. g. It's even scarcer than sugar! We've been expecting something like this: A Seattle family must go 60 days without sugar. The baby ate mama's stamps and rationing board won't issue duplicates.

Educators are saying that by end of 1943, if war continues, half our rural schools will be closed at least part time because of teacher shortage. . . . Policeman's lot is not a happy one; in fact, jobs on the force have had so little appeal of late that Kansas City has had to run classified ads to augment force. (Detroit, too, advertised for police months ago).

Eighteen eastern railroads announced this week a discount of 10 percent on dining car meals to members of armed forces traveling at their own expense. . . . Seven out of every 10 service men see their first stage shows in army or navy camps. . . . Don't worry about spices. The important ones (except pepper and cinnamon) are grown in this hemisphere. Of the latter, according to American Spice Trade Ass'n, we have several years' supply.

WAR—Bombing

To kill a man it is not necessary to riddle every inch of his body with bullets—it is enough to pierce his heart or his brain. With a nation, similarly, it is enough to strike effectively at its vital organs: industrial centers, utilities, communications, etc. One of Hitler's prime mistakes was his concentration on London and other population targets. Had the same striking force been more carefully planned and directed against the sources of life and labor on the Islands, England might have been knocked out.—ALEXANDER P. DE SEVERSKY, "How Will We be Bombed?" *Town & Country*, 4-42.

Subs for Sugar

Did you say you couldn't buy any more sugar this week?

With every 11 pounds of apples you get one pound of sugar. The same goes for oranges. Or you can buy an equal amount in 12 pounds of raspberries or 13 of carrots.

Five pounds of chili sauce will get you your pound of sugar and so will only a pound and a half of sorghum. But it will take 81 pounds of asparagus, 250 pounds of rhubarb, or 500 of kale (cabbage).

Besides all this, the chemist relates that much of the starch you buy is converted into sugar before it is absorbed into the body cells. So you can add potatoes and bread to your sugar purchases.

Even if your coffee is not so sweet these days, you're really not facing sugar starvation.—RICHARD A. TRUMP, *Des Moines Register*.

WEDDING—Gifts

Some of these days I will find the perfect Wedding Present — price about \$4.95—beauty unlimited and utility unquestioned. Then all my remaining days will be spent in peace, and even the Wedding months of May and June will hold no terrors for me.—KATHARINE BRUSH, in her syndicated feature, *Out of My Mind*.

YOUTH

Youth is a world in miniature; bounded on the north by a thin substance called the skull bone; on the south by twin bits of shoe leather, and on the east and west by the outstretched fingertips of expectation and hope.—HENRY W. PRENTISS, "The Perfect Teacher," *Journal of Education*, 4-42.

American Scene

From England to America
in Wartime

By MARCEL WALLENSTEIN

Mr. Wallenstein is London correspondent for the Kansas City Star. He recently returned to his home in that city for a brief holiday, and here records a few of his sensations and observations on the American Scene after an absence of nearly three years.

"I wish you could have seen it first in peacetime" the vice-president of Press Wireless was saying to his bride as the clipper's shadow moved over Long Island flats. "It will be different now."

You, too, felt it would be different when an army officer, and then a navy officer asked you a few questions. You had somehow expected more questions, a more rigid examination. You waited in a room where they gave you coffee and sold newspapers and chewing gum and an amazing variety of candy and popcorn; nuts came out of machines when you put a nickel in the slot.

You drove across the Triborough bridge. . . . Flags were flying from nearly every building. There were not many uniforms in the street. Shop windows stuffed with beautiful things to buy. Glistening paint flashed from a thousand moving cars. Nothing like the diminished traffic of London.

They remembered you at the Ritz. You had a shower with lashings of soap, a great luxury, and called the valet who looked at your shabby clothes with sympathy. He would do the best he could with the suit; the underwear, socks and pajamas would go to the trash can.

You went to dinner in a place where they exhibited carcasses of beef. They advertised 16-oz. steaks. There was enough beef on the table for 4 persons to fill the meat ration of 20 in England for a week. Giant baked potatoes. . . . Butter in unlimited quantities. The butter tasted strange. You couldn't eat it. Nearly three years of margarine had destroyed your taste for butter. Salads containing an undreamed of variety of ingredients. Fresh strawberries! Cream in your coffee instead of a few drops of skimmed milk.

People at neighboring tables were talking about a horse race in Kentucky. Someone pointed out a shriveled little man. A national hero. Maybe he had been at Pearl Harbor or on Bataan? He was a jockey.

In London people skimmed on everything, cleaned their plates. Every scrap of paper, cloth, metal was saved. It was illegal to burn an old newspaper or envelope, or throw away a bus ticket.

They were hungry and thin in France, Belgium, Norway; dying in the streets in Athens. Madrid women, carrying babies with hunger-bloated stomachs stopped strangers and begged, "For the love of Christ, a crust of bread!" . . .

" "

In the women's bar, the cocktail hour brought a brittle, chattering throng. Perfume, furs, jewels, the new fashions now designed in America. Ice tinkling in glass, mint sprigs. Scotch whisky that couldn't be bought for love or money in Scotland.

A woman drained her drink, ordered another, nibbled at a grain of buttered popcorn and said, "It's wartime and we must all make sacrifices. Everybody should give up something."

The bride from London was a little stupefied with the abundance. Everyone she met asked politely of London; everyone had questions, few had answers about the American war effort. Her husband was inclined to be bitter.

"What this town needs" he said "is a few bombs. Just a few would help. A few of these glittering towers sliding into the streets, a few dead children buried under schoolhouses. . . . I'm afraid it will take something of the kind!" . . .

" "

Kansas City! Home again! A friend came thru the glass doors, gripped your hand and said "Good morning." You drove south, past the Memorial of that other war. In Europe they carved the names of the dead on the walls of such places. There was room here for so many names. The long night was just beginning.—Condensed from the *Kansas City Star*.

GENS FROM Yesteryear

Epitaphs of the War
By RUDYARD KIPLING

So readily do we think of Kipling as bard of the far-flung battle-line; pilgrim on the Road to Mandalay, that it comes as something of a shock to recall he lived—and wrote—thru the World War. These selected Epitaphs were inspired by random incidents of that period. Mr. Kipling died in England, in 1936.

Batteries Out of Ammunition

If any mourn us in the workshop, say
We died because the shift kept holiday.

" "

Bombed in London

On land and sea I strove with anxious care
To escape conscription. It was in the air!

" "

A Son

My son was killed while laughing at some jest. I would I knew
What it was, and it might serve me in a time when jests are few.

" "

An Only Son

I have slain none except my Mother. She
(Blessing her slayer) died of grief for me.

" "

The Bridegroom

Call me false, beloved,
If, from thy scarce-known breast
So little time removed,
In other arms I rest.

For this more ancient bride,
Whom coldly I embrace,
Was constantly at my side
Before I saw thy face.

Our marriage, often set—
By miracle delayed—
At last is consummate,
And cannot be unmade.

Live, then whom Life shall cure,
Almost of Memory
And leave us to endure
Its immortality.

Good Stories YOU CAN USE...

"I LAUGHED AT THIS ONE"

Rt. Rev. Msgr. FULTON J. SHEEN
Roman Catholic priest,
writer, educator

After broadcasting a sermon some years ago, I received a telephone call from a lady in Washington.

"Young man, do you accept criticisms of your sermons?"

"Most certainly," I replied, "but not anonymous ones."

So she told me her name and continued, "I found the end of your last Sunday's sermon very common."

"Madam," I said, "I thought it was common myself."

"I thought it was very ordinary."

I agreed that I thought it was very ordinary too.

"This is no joking matter," she stated. "I am very serious. The ending was positively vulgar."

I asked her if I might repeat the last paragraph for her and let her tell me what was vulgar in it. I was talking that particular Sunday on the Incarnation and the last paragraph was this: "There are substitutes offered for the Incarnation, but all of them leave the heart cold. Now we are asked to prostrate ourselves before the cosmos and adore the universe. Man cannot love the cosmos; man cannot adore the universe; man never has, never will and never can love anything he cannot get his arms around, and the cosmos is too big and too bulky. That is why the immense God became a Babe—in order that we might encircle Him with our arms."

"Was that it?" I asked.

"Yes," she answered, "and do you mean to tell me, young man, that I cannot love anyone unless I can get my arms around them?"

I replied, "Madam, that is not my problem; that's yours."

Here is the latest army joke, which may not be appreciated except by soldiers.

The quarter-master sergeant was equipping a new recruit with battle dress. The trousers fitted perfectly, the tunic might have been made for him in Saville Row, the cap was just right.

"Lor love a duck!" exclaimed the sergeant, "you must be deformed."—*The Financial Post.*

WISECRACKS of the Week

Any resemblance of the city of Hamburg to a steak of the same name is purely a coincidence arranged by the RAF—Sen. SOAPER.

" "

We ought to occupy Martinique. You don't own your house if you don't own the doorsteps.—ARTHUR ("Bugs") BAER.

" "

A woman's fondest wish is to be weighed and found wanting.—*Kreolite News.*

" "

Democracy is a land of freedom and privilege—but we lock up our new bicycle nights.—*London (Ont.) Free Press.*

A comedian came on the stage in Berlin weeping and ejaculating.

"We are deprived of this and of that, no butter, no coffee, no soap, and all on account of that hound."

During the shocked silence that followed, in rushed the Gestapo and hustled him off to the nearest police station. The comedian protested violently and said the police had made a mistake.

"Of course," he said, "I only had Churchill in mind, but who were you thinking of?"—*The Financial Post, Canada.*

" "

Bess: Jack said he worships the ground I walk on.

Tess: But is he willing to put a ceiling over you?—*Buffalo Courier-Express.*

